CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A stable fixed dose oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising at least one anti-infective agent selected from the group consisting of betalactams, fluoroquinolones, macrolides, and betalactamase inhibitors ~~as a first active ingredient~~ and at least one microorganism susceptible to said anti-infective agent but useful in preventing or minimizing adverse effects of said anti-infective agent ~~as a second active ingredient~~, ~~said anti-infective agent causing significant adverse effects which can be prevented or minimized by said microorganism~~ wherein at least one of ~~the first and second active ingredients being~~ coated to provide a protective barrier around ~~the said at least one of the first and second active ingredient ingredients~~, ~~the first and second active ingredients being~~ contained in a single pharmaceutical formulation selected from the group consisting of a powder, a tablet, and a capsule, wherein said powder, tablet, or capsule contains both said anti-infective agent and said microorganism, the protective barrier protecting the ~~susceptible~~ microorganism from the effect of the anti-infective agent to maintain the ~~susceptible~~ microorganism in a viable form for a period of at least three months.

2. (original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein said anti-infective agent is selected from the group consisting of Ampicillin, Amoxycillin, Cloxacillin, Clavulanic acid, Sultamicin, Cefuroxime axetil, Cefadroxyl, Cephalexin, Cefixime, Erythromycin, Ciprofloxacin, and combinations thereof.

3. (previously amended) The formulation of claim 2 wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus acidophilus,

Lactobacillus spores, Lactobacillus lactis, Streptococcus thermophilus, Streptococcus lactis, Saccromyces cerevisea, Lactobacilli GG, and combinations thereof.

4. (original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the ratio of anti-infective agent to microorganism is in the range of 2:1 to 25:1.

5. (original) The formulation of claim 4 wherein the ratio of anti-infective agent to microorganism is about 5:1.

6. (original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein at least one of the anti-infective agent and the microorganism is coated with a physiologically acceptable excipient to provide granules of the anti-infective agent or the microorganism.

7. (original) The formulation of claim 6 wherein both the anti-infective agent and the microorganisim are coated with an excipient to provide granules of the anti-infective agent and granules of the microorganism.

8. (original) The formulation of claim 7 wherein the anti-infective agent granules and the microorganism granules are formed into a layered tablet such that one layer contains the anti-infective agent and the other layer contains the microorganism.

9. (original) The formulation of claim 6 wherein the excipient is ethyl cellulose.

10. (original) The formulation of claim 6 wherein the excipient is a mixture of microcrystalline cellulose and starch.

11. (original) The formulation of claim 6 wherein the excipient is a mixture of magnesium stearate, polyplasdone XL and sodium chloride.

12. (currently amended) The formulation of claim 1 wherein ~~one of the first and second active ingredients~~ is formed into a coated tablet, and wherein said coated tablet is contained in a capsule, ~~containing~~ the other active ingredient.

13. (original) The formulation of claim 12 wherein said tablet contains said microorganism admixed with physiologically acceptable excipients.

14. (original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate phthalate; poly(butylmethacrylate, (2-dimethyl aminoethyl) methacrylate, methyl methaacrylate); poly(ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate); poly(methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate); poly(methacrylic acid, ethyl acrylate); poly(ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride); hydrogenated Castor oil; Cetyl alcohol; diethyl phthalate; ethyl cellulose; hydroxypropyl cellulose; hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate; and zein.

15. (currently amended) A stable fixed dose oral pharmaceutical tablet comprising at least one anti-infective agent ~~as a first active ingredient~~ and at least one microorganism susceptible to said anti-infective agent, ~~as a second active ingredient, each of~~ the ~~first~~ active ingredient and an excipient ~~forming~~ a first ~~discrete~~ region of the tablet, and ~~the second active ingredients~~ ingredient and an excipient ~~forming~~ a second ~~discrete part~~ region of the tablet such that ~~the first and second active ingredients~~ are physically separated in the tablet by a coating, ~~and~~ the ~~tablet includes a~~ first region is substantially free of ~~the second active ingredient~~ and ~~a~~ the second region is substantially free of ~~the first ingredient~~, the tablet ~~maintaining~~ the ~~susceptible~~ microorganism in a viable form for a period of at least three months..

16. (currently amended) The tablet of claim 15 wherein the first region and the second region are layers of the tablet~~, at least one of the layers comprising a coating to provide a protective barrier around the active ingredient in said at least one layer, the protective barrier protecting the susceptible microorganism from the effect of the anti-infective agent~~.

Claim 17 (canceled).

18. (currently amended) The tablet of claim 15 wherein at least one of ~~the first active ingredient~~ and ~~the second active ingredient~~ is coated with an excipient to provide granules of at least one of ~~the first and second active ingredient~~ ingredients, the granules of said at least one of ~~the first and second active ingredients~~ being compressed separately to form a tablet part.

22. (currently amended) The ~~formulation~~ tablet of claim ~~1~~ 15 wherein said anti-infective agent is selected from the group consisting of betalactams, fluoroquinolones, macrolides, and beta lactamase inhibitors.

23. (original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein said anti-infective agent causes diarrhoea, and wherein the microorganism prevents or minimizes diarrhoea induced by the anti-infective agent.

24. (original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein said anti-infective agent is a broad-spectrum antibiotic.